

POLITICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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alliance. When he declared, after his third war, "We are satiated," he meant what he said. There is no trace of Pan-Germanism in his apologia, no coveting of his neighbour's vineyard, no craving for colonies, no cult of *Weltpolitik*.

When he had reached his goal of German unity the man of war becomes a pillar of peace. In a word he was a nationalist like Cavour, not an Imperialist. The great difference between the Iron Chancellor and his bungling successors is that he believed in the doctrine of limited liability and that they threw it to the winds. Readers who desire to study this fascinating work and to assess its value as historical evidence should begin with *Furst Bismarcks Gtdanke und Erinnrmgen* by Erich Marcks, the best of his biographers.

Seven years after Mettemich's death Beust, another German, took his place at the Ballplatz. The former was a Catholic from the Rhineland, the latter a Protestant from Saxony. The former held office for thirty-nine years, the latter for five. The Vienna period, however, was only a chapter in a long and distinguished career which began as Foreign Minister of Saxony in 1849 and ended as Austrian Ambassador in London and Paris. Beust's Memoirs, written in old age, reveal an attractive, highly cultured, liberal-minded personality, and they are a primary authority for the foundation of the German Empire. We are so accustomed to the Bismarckian version that it is useful to have a well-informed witness from the other camp. While accepting the verdict of Sadowa and Sedan he regretted the exclusion of Austria. To use the terminology of the time, he was Grossdeutsch, not Kleindeutsch. His ideal was the so-called Triad, Prussia, Austria and the Middle States. Was the German Confederation (1815-1866), he asks,

really so objectionable? It kept the peace, and only the Prussian policy of expelling Austria broke it up. Bismarck alone wanted war in 1866. If the Bavarian army had co-operated at Sadowa Prussia would probably have been defeated and Bismarck have shot himself, as he had vowed to do if the battle were lost. Saxony loyally accepted the new order, and Beust declares again and again that he was never hostile to Prussia, only to Bismarck's overweening ambition. The Bund, he admits, was unpopular, and he lived long enough to welcome the alliance of Vienna and Berlin for which he believed himself to have prepared the way. Bismarck always respected him, and described him as " my most unbiassed and amiable opponent."